

Inyo National Forest

TRAIL CONDITIONS REPORT

MOUNT WHITNEY TRAIL

July 17, 2011

Whitney Portal to Mirror Lake: The trail is free of snow.

Above Mirror Lake to Trail Camp: There are a couple small patches of snow remaining. Please cross these to the opposite side where the snow free trail resumes. Do not make shortcuts as you may damage sensitive vegetation.

There are snow free campsites; in the Lone Pine Lake, Outpost Camp, and Trail Camp areas.

Trail Camp to Trail Crest: The switchbacks are mostly free of snow and ice. The cables are passable, but are wet and have sections of snow/ice. You will encounter two small snow fields above the cables and then one larger snowfield on the last switchback before Trail Crest. Use caution in these areas. Most hikers are passing these snow and ice areas without too much difficulty. Trekking poles can be useful in these areas. Other hikers may want to use an ice axe and/or instep crampons. What type of equipment you decide to bring and use depends on your blend of skills and experience on steep snow and ice.

**You must be able to properly assess conditions and determine if an area is safe to travel through.
Safety is your responsibility**

Trail Crest to Summit: The trail is clear with the exception of one small drift about halfway between Trail Crest and the summit, and one large non-technical snowfield just below the summit.

PROTECT YOUR WILDERNESS BY OBSERVING THE FOLLOWING

- **Wilderness Permits** are required for all overnight users and for day users going beyond Lone Pine Lake
- **Pack Out Your Solid Waste.** This is the only acceptable method of waste management on Whitney (**CFR 36/261.11(d); \$150.00 minimum fine, \$5000 and or 6 months imprisonment maximum fine**). Visitors must possess a pack-out kit at all times. Pack-It-Out kits can be obtained free with your permit at the Inter-Agency Visitor Center.
- **Historically, there has been a high level of bear activity in the Mt. Whitney area.** Use the bear proof lockers provided at the trailhead. Bear proof food storage containers are recommended for backcountry travelers and required on the Whitney Trail
- **Please stay on the trail. Do not shortcut switchbacks.** Shortcutting switchbacks damages plants, causes erosion, and results in costly trail repairs
- **Always camp 100 feet** (about 45 paces) **from lakes and streams**

HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE

The Mount Whitney Wilderness Rangers